

Executive Summary

Total crime in Baltimore County decreased by 2,083 incidents during 2002 compared to 2001, which is a decrease of 2.6%. All of the Part I or “serious crime” categories decreased during 2002 compared to the previous year’s total, except for Rape, Aggravated Assault, and Motor Vehicle Theft, all of which increased. During 2002, Rape increased by 1 case or 0.4%, Aggravated Assault increased by 12 cases or 0.3%, and Motor Vehicle Theft increased by 188 cases or 5.7%.

There were 36,769 offenses classified as Part I Crime during 2002. This represents a decrease of 636 crimes or –1.7%, compared to the 37,405 cases reported during 2001. **Other than 1999 and 2000, Part I Crime is the lowest reported since 1980 when the current method of recording Part I crime was initiated.**

Part I Violent Crime decreased by 12 cases (down 0.2%) with 6,531 cases in 2002 compared to 6,543 cases in 2001. Part I Violent Crime is above the previous 5-year average of 6,438.

Homicide decreased from 31 cases during 2001 to 29 cases in 2002. The number of homicides is slightly above the previous 5-year average of 28 cases. One homicide occurred in White Marsh and Towson Precincts; two homicides occurred in Parkville; three homicides occurred in Woodlawn and Cockeysville; four homicides occurred in Wilkens and North Point Precincts; five homicides occurred in Garrison; and six homicides occurred in Essex.

The total number of rapes increased from 233 during 2001 to 234 in 2002, an increase of 1 case or 0.4%. The number of rapes is above the previous 5-year average of 227. The number of rapes decreased in Woodlawn Precinct, from 45 in 2001 to 41 in 2002; Essex Precinct, from 41 in 2001 to 34 in 2002; and, North Point Precinct, from 38 in 2001 to 23 in 2002. All other precincts reported increases with the highest volume change occurring in White Marsh, which had 8 more cases in 2002. **In 54.2% of the cases, the victim knew the suspect prior to the offense.**

The number of robberies decreased from 1,723 cases in 2001 to 1,700 cases in 2002, a decrease of 23 cases or –1.3%. The 1,700 robberies were below the previous 5-year average of 1,872 and ***are the fewest reported since 1988***. The number of robberies decreased in every precinct except Wilkens, Garrison, Cockeysville, and White Marsh, which experienced a case increase of 16, 25, 7 and 7 respectively. The greatest volume changes occurred in Garrison Precinct, who had 25 more cases, and in Parkville Precinct, which had 24 fewer cases. **Decreases were reported in all location categories except highway, residence and miscellaneous robberies, which increased from 671 to 725 cases, 205 to 211 cases and from 123 to 133 cases, respectively. Robberies committed with the use of a firearm fell by 45 cases, from 751 cases in 2001 to 706 cases in 2002, a decline of 6.0%.**

The number of aggravated assaults increased from 4,556 in 2001 to 4,568 in 2002, an increase of 12 cases or 0.3%. The number of aggravated assaults is above the previous 5-year average of 4,310 cases. The number of aggravated assaults decreased in Wilkens, Woodlawn, Parkville, Essex, and North Point Precincts. The greatest volume changes occurred in White Marsh Precinct, which had 87 more cases; Wilkens Precinct, which had 44 fewer cases; and Parkville Precinct, which had 43 fewer cases.

Part I Property Crimes decreased from 30,862 offenses in 2001 to 30,238 offenses in 2002, a decrease of 624 incidences or –2.0%. **Other than 1999 and 2000, Part I Property crimes were the fewest number reported since before 1980.**

Burglaries decreased by 525 cases (-8.5%), from 6,158 offenses in 2001 to 5,633 offenses in 2002. The

number of burglary cases is below the previous 5-year average of 6,355 cases. Burglary cases decreased in every Precinct for the year 2002. The greatest volume changes occurred in the North Point Precinct, where there were 100 fewer cases (down 11.8%); Cockeysville Precinct, where there were 90 fewer cases (down 17.2%); and the Garrison Precinct, where there were 74 less cases (down 7.4%). **The value of property stolen during burglaries decreased by 6.6%, from \$8,482,091 to \$7,921,218.**

The number of thefts decreased from 21,039 in 2001 to 20,778 in 2002, a decrease of 261 cases or -1.2%. The number of thefts is below the previous 5-year average of 22,105 and, **other than 1999 and 2000, is the lowest number of thefts reported since 1989.** The number of thefts decreased in Garrison Precinct, where there were 262 fewer cases; North Point Precinct, where there were 254 fewer cases; Essex Precinct, where there were 113 fewer cases; Towson Precinct, where there were 37 fewer cases and, Woodlawn Precinct, where there were 34 fewer cases. The largest increase occurred in Parkville Precinct with an increase of 220 cases in 2002 or 16.5%. **The greatest volume increase was reported in the category of From Auto Parts and Accessories, which increased by 10.1%, from 3,275 cases to 3,607 cases (a difference of 332 cases).**

The number of motor vehicle thefts increased by 188 cases or 5.7% from 3,277 in 2001 to 3,465 in 2002. The number of motor vehicle thefts increased in every precinct except Essex and North Point. The greatest increases in the number of motor vehicle thefts were observed in Parkville Precinct and Wilkens Precinct, which had 56 more cases (up 31.5%) and 50 more cases (up 12.2%), respectively.

There was a tendency for certain vehicle makes and models to be targeted in Baltimore County. The following table identifies the ten most frequently stolen makes and models during 2002.

<u>Vehicle Make and Model</u>	<u>Number Stolen</u>	<u>% of Total Motor Vehicle Thefts</u>
Dodge Neon	270	7.6%
Dodge Caravan	177	5.0%
Honda Accord	148	4.2%
Jeep Cherokee	132	3.7%
Chevrolet Cavalier	110	3.1%
Dodge Shadow	83	2.3%
Plymouth Voyager	83	2.3%
Honda Civic	81	2.3%
Dodge Spirit	77	2.2%
Plymouth Acclaim	76	2.2%

Note: The number of vehicles stolen presented in the above table are taken from the Regional Crime Analysis System. Percentages are calculated based upon RCAS totals.

Arson decreased by 26 cases or -6.7% from 388 reported arsons in 2001 to 362 in 2002. The number of arsons reported is above the previous 5-year average of 354 cases. The number of Arson cases decreased in all precincts except for Woodlawn, Garrison, and North Point, which had increases of 17, 2, and 6 cases respectively. The largest decrease occurred in Parkville precinct with 17 fewer cases (down 50.0%). **The greatest increase in the number of cases was reported in Motor Vehicles: Cars, Buses, Trucks, etc., which increased by 16.3% from 104 to 121 cases. This classification represents 33.4% of all**

arsons.

Less serious crime (Part II offenses) decreased from 42,163 offenses in 2001 to 40,716 in 2002. This is a decrease of 1,447 cases (-3.4%) and is below the previous 5-year average of 40,784 offenses. Part II Crime decreased in every precinct, except White Marsh Precinct, which experienced an increase of 150 cases or up 3.7%. The greatest volume changes were observed in Garrison Precinct, where they decreased by 327 cases (down 5.3%) and in Wilkens Precinct where Part II crime decreased by 322 cases (down 7.6%).

Part II offenses that experienced the largest volume increases in 2002 compared to 2001 were fraud (up 179 cases or 13.1%); tags lost/stolen (up 47 cases or 8.5%); child neglect (up 38 cases or 23.6%); weapon possession (up 36 cases or 27.3%); and, false report (up 33 cases or 32.7%).

Part II offenses that experienced the largest volume decreases in 2002 compared to 2001 were telephone misuse (down 352 cases or 15.6%); checks bad (down 179 cases or 51.3%); forgery (down 139 cases or 26.8%); embezzlement (down 136 cases or 20.1%); and, drugs – marijuana (possession) (down 133 cases or 5.1%).

The number of **calls for service** increased from 558,944 calls in 2001 to 602,199 calls in 2002, an increase of 43,255 calls or 7.7%. The number of calls for service excluding traffic stops and crime scene processing increased from 464,492 in 2001 to 474,233 in 2002, an increase of 9,741 calls or 2.1%. False alarm calls fell by 4.4% from 56,295 in 2001 to 53,790 in 2002, a reduction of 2,505 calls. The practice of capturing Radar Stops in the Calls for Service database was begun in 2002.